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Letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the answer of the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 6 July 2006, to a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency with regard to the recent missile launches in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
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Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Answer of the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency with regard to the missile launches

In the wake of the missile launches by the Korean People's Army (KPA), the United States of America and some other countries following it, including Japan, are making much ado about a serious development. They are terming them a "violation" and a "provocation" and calling for "sanctions" and "their referral to the United Nations Security Council".

The latest successful missile launches were part of the routine military exercises staged by the KPA to increase the nation's military capacity for self-defence.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's exercise of its legitimate right as a sovereign State is bound neither to any international law nor to bilateral or multilateral agreements such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan Pyongyang Declaration and the joint statement of the six-party talks.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not a signatory to the missile technology control regime and, therefore, is not bound to any commitment under it.

As for the moratorium on long-range missile test-firing, which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agreed with the United States in 1999, it was valid only when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States dialogue was under way.

The Bush administration, however, scrapped all the agreements its preceding administration concluded with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and totally scuttled the bilateral dialogue.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had already clarified in March 2005 that its moratorium on missile test-firing had lost its validity.

The same can be said of the moratorium on the test-firing of long-range missiles, which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agreed with Japan in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan Pyongyang Declaration in 2002.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan Pyongyang Declaration, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed its intention to extend beyond 2003 the moratorium on the missile firing in the spirit of the Declaration.

That step was taken on the premise that Japan moved to normalize its relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and redeem its past.

The Japanese authorities, however, have abused the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's good faith. They have not honoured their commitment but internationalized the "abduction issue", pursuant to the United States hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, although the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had fully settled the issue. That behaviour has brought

overall Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan relations to where they were before the publication of the Declaration.

It is a manifestation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's broad magnanimity that it has put on hold the missile launch so far under this situation.

The joint statement of the six-party talks on 19 September 2005 stipulates the commitments to be fulfilled by the six sides to the talks to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

However, no sooner had the joint statement been adopted than the United States applied financial sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and, through them, escalated pressure on it in various fields. The United States, at the same time, has totally hamstrung the efforts for the implementation of the joint statement through such threats and blackmail as large-scale military exercises targeted against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is clear to everyone that there is no need for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to unilaterally put on hold the missile launch under such situation.

In the face of such a stark fact, it is a far-fetched assertion grossly falsifying reality for them to claim that the routine missile launches conducted by the Korean People's Army for self-defence strain the regional situation and block the progress of the dialogue.

It is a lesson taught by history, and a stark reality of international relations proven by the Iraqi crisis, that the upsetting of the balance of power is bound to create instability and crisis and spark even a war.

Except for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's tremendous deterrent for self-defence, the United States would have attacked the Democratic People's Republic of Korea more than once as it had listed the former as part of an "axis of evil" and a "target of pre-emptive nuclear attack", and peace on the Korean peninsula and in the region would have been seriously disturbed.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's missile development, test-firing, manufacture and deployment, therefore, serve as a key to keeping the balance of power and to preserving peace and stability in North-East Asia.

It is also preposterous for them to term the latest missile launches a "provocation" and the like for the mere reason that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea did not send prior notice about them.

It would be quite foolish to notify Washington and Tokyo of the missile launches in advance, given that the United States, which is technically at war with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has been threatening since a month ago to intercept the latter's missiles in collusion with Japan.

We would like to ask the United States and Japan if they have ever notified the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of their ceaseless missile launches in the areas close to it.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains unchanged in its will to denuclearize the Korean peninsula in a negotiated peaceful manner just as it committed itself in the 19 September joint statement of the six-party talks.

The latest missile launch exercises are quite irrelevant to the six-party talks.

The Korean People's Army will go on with missile launch exercises as part of its efforts to bolster deterrence for self-defence in the future, too.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will have no option but to take stronger physical actions of other forms, should any other country dare to take issue with the exercises and put pressure upon it.